

### 'Grass Roots' "Turf Tips" - March 9, 2016

As we move into spring, most of us are looking forward to putting the snow and cold weather behind us, and starting to think about the season ahead! With spring on the way, now is a great time to start planning for the upcoming lawn and landscape season.

As you spend some time thinking about the previous year and this coming year, consider the following: Are there long-term maintenance tasks that need to be done that can be planned for this year? What were your trouble spots last year? For instance, you might consider installing drainage to an area that always seems wet and doesn't drain, or selectively pruning to help improve poor air circulation that can contribute to lawn and landscape plant disease development.

Talking with local Master Gardeners or exploring your county or state cooperative extension websites for answers are usually a good start to researching problems. The 'Grass Roots' [website](#) has links to every state university turfgrass extension website.

If you're in the market for a new mower or new landscape power equipment, now is a perfect time to do a little product research so that you're ready to buy come spring. When considering mowers and power equipment, the size of your property and your level of maintenance are important factors to consider.

Manufacturers are offering more battery-powered mowers and equipment which not only reduce emissions, but are easier to maintain than conventional gas-powered counterparts. Although often initially more expensive than conventional gas-powered equipment, newer models offer extended use times than they have in the past from more efficient batteries and save you money spent on oil, gas, and other maintenance over the years. For instance, STIHL's model [BGA 85 battery-powered blower](#) is comparable to a gas-powered model and the STIHL [MSA 200C-BQ](#) electric chainsaw offers enough power, speed, cutting capacity and run time to tackle most residential tree trimming.



'Grass Roots' coordinator Geoffrey Rinehart using the STIHL BGA 85 battery-powered blower on the exhibit.